AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims:

1-50. **(Canceled)**

51. **(Currently Amended)** A method of treating~~, preventing, or eliminating~~ systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in a mammal comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising an ~~therapeutically~~ effective amount of a soluble lymphotoxin-beta receptor (LTβR) comprising at least one ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand fused to one or more heterologous protein domains and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

52. **(Canceled)**

53. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 51 ~~52~~, wherein the ligand binding domain comprises a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ ID. No. 1 ~~(Figure 1)~~.

54. **(Canceled)**

55. **(Previously Amended)** The method according to claim ~~54~~ 51, wherein the heterologous protein domain is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, serum albumin, lipoproteins, apolipoproteins and transferrin.

56. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 51, wherein the heterologous protein domain ~~soluble LT β R~~ comprises a human immunglobulin Fc domain.

57. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to any of claims 51, 53, 55 or 56, wherein the mammal is human.

58. **(Canceled)**

59. **(New)** The method according to claim 51, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-beta receptor (LTβR) comprises SEQ ID. No. 1.

60. **(New)** A method of treating systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in a human comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a soluble LTβR comprising SEQ ID No. 1 fused to a human IgG1 Fc domain and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.